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# HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY

U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Tuesday, January 30, 1945

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## ANNOUNCING A CHANGE

Beginning next week, Homemakers' Chats will come to you in a new dress - a stream-lined model of two pages of shorter stories with an occasional longer story. The Chats will be mailed daily instead of once a week and they'll be for release upon receipt. They'll continue to appear on the traditional pink sheets. Your comments and suggestions will be appreciated.

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SUBJECT: "Pre-War Stuff" - Information from clothing specialists of the  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

When you say "smartly turned out", these days, you're usually thinking about the man or woman in uniform.

If you've taken in an army show or seen a display of the different kinds of uniforms for our fighting forces, you know how adequately these clothes are designed to meet the needs of the men and women who wear them.

You also have a pretty good idea of how much goods of all kinds ... of cotton...rayon...nylon...and wool...it takes to outfit our fighting forces. You can see why a big part of the goods turned out by American mills is now going into uniforms.

And that means fewer new clothes for those of us on the home front. So you say "smartly turned out", when you speak of the men and women in uniform. When you're describing your own wardrobe, you can say with an equal note of pride, "This is pre-war stuff."

A "pre-war" coat, suit or dress is very likely to have a quality of material and construction that you can't get these days. Certainly not for the price you paid when you bought the garment.

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And that's the reason you're going to be able to make most of these clothes "do for the duration." Clothes can grow old gracefully, too, you know.

Here are some suggestions from the clothing specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture on letting your present wardrobe grow old gracefully.

First, you'll get a lot more wear out of your clothes if you keep them in shape to wear...if you watch out for day to day details...if your dresses and suits are always ready. It doesn't take long for several garments to get in such a state of disrepair, that suddenly you find you have simply nothing to put on.

There's the crepe dress. It's clean but some of the seams are ripped. The last time you pressed the dress, the iron broke the threads in some of the seams. And you haven't mended them yet. Then there's the coat to the green suit. It has a button off and there's a spot on the collar. The printed crepe dress sags in front since you left the heavy belt hanging on the waist. The crepe blouse smells of tobacco and perspiration. And there's a heavy powder stain on the black coat collar.

Of course, these are repair jobs that can be remedied in a little while. Trouble with most of us is that we're prone to put off these little jobs. Then when we get ready to put on the garment, it isn't clean or it isn't mended.

And sometimes neglect can lead to an even greater loss. Moths will get in the dress you neglect to send to the cleaner. A little rip becomes a large tear.

So day by day care of your wardrobe is one of the secrets of having clothes that grow old gracefully.

Put your dress on a hanger as soon as you take it off. Let it hang for a little while in the room where the air can circulate around it and



carry off some of the odors of perspiration and of tobacco. Brush your wool and wool-like dresses with a clothes brush. Use a soft cloth to brush your silk and rayon dresses. Brush inside as well as out. And brush in the direction of the grain of the cloth...or with the nap, if the material is a pile fabric.

Before you put your dress in the closet, check it to see if there's a mending job or a bit of cleaning that you need to do. A button may be loose. Or there may be a spot you'll want to take out with home cleaning fluid. This is the time to mend any rips and broken stitches you may find.

Then when you put your dress on the hanger, be sure that it hangs straight. Fasten it at the neck and close the side fastening. Hang the belt separately. If you'll leave a little space between each dress, you'll find it's better for the dresses. They don't have to be pressed so often.

You can save pressing too, if you give your dress a rest between wearings. When you've worn the same dress for a day or two, let it hang in the closet for a few days. The wrinkles will shake out and the dress will get back in shape, oftentimes, if you give it a brief rest.

Give your "pre-war" clothes the care they deserve and they'll give you the wear you demand.

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